

Michigan Auto Project



A Voluntary Agreement on a Pollution Prevention Partnership Between DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

I. Introduction

The Michigan Auto Project is a voluntary pollution prevention and resource conservation partnership between DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors Corporation (Auto Companies), and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The partnership builds on the success of the U.S. Auto Project, which was concluded in 1998. The Auto Companies agree to work together to advance pollution prevention within their own organizations, and to work with the MDEQ to promote pollution prevention to auto suppliers and to other industries in Michigan. The Michigan Auto Project Mission Statement and Project Goals provide a framework for each partner's roles and responsibilities in implementing this project.

II. Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Michigan Auto Project to:

- Promote pollution prevention throughout Michigan's auto manufacturing operations;
- Concentrate on reductions in the use, generation, and release of persistent toxic substances and other materials of concern; and
- Conduct these efforts in a manner that enhances environmental and competitive performance of the auto manufacturing industry.

III. Project Goals and Objectives

The Michigan Auto Project goals and objectives include:

1. Use innovative and cost-effective pollution prevention approaches to reduce waste and potential risks to human health and the environment.
2. Apply multi-media, life-cycle considerations in the early design stages of products and processes to conserve resources, prevent pollution, and recycle materials, wherever practical.
3. Integrate pollution prevention into company activities through proactive, voluntary efforts.
4. Encourage employees to use their knowledge and skills to identify and implement pollution prevention ideas, as well as recognize outstanding employee contributions.

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5. Transfer pollution prevention knowledge within the company and work with the MDEQ to exchange non-proprietary technologies with suppliers and other interested parties.
6. Support non-competitive collaborative research and development of clean technologies among automotive suppliers, technology centers, academia, and government.
7. Support stakeholder engagement on pollution prevention efforts and opportunities.

IV. Project Responsibilities

To fulfill the mission of the project, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will:

1. Oversee and coordinate the Michigan Auto Project, including participation in a workgroup comprising representatives of the Auto Companies and the MDEQ.
2. Coordinate development and dissemination of promotional materials including fact sheets, brochures, web site, and press items.
3. Coordinate workshops and conferences to support transfer of pollution prevention technology and information, such as the annual Southeast Michigan Waste Reduction and Energy Efficiency Conference.
4. Work with the Auto Companies to establish a stakeholder engagement mechanism and take the lead for coordinating this aspect of the project.
5. Serve as a liaison with federal, state, and local government agencies and policymakers interested in learning about the project.
6. Coordinate and publish an annual Michigan Auto Project progress report.
7. Coordinate and seek mutually beneficial opportunities for student internship assignments in the auto industry, when feasible.

The Auto Companies will:

1. Participate in a workgroup comprising representatives of the Auto Companies and the MDEQ.
2. Submit a minimum of 12 pollution prevention case studies to the MDEQ annually.
3. Participate in MDEQ-sponsored pollution prevention workshops by providing speakers, information, and/or marketing assistance.
4. Report accomplishments on project goals and objectives to the MDEQ by providing data and information necessary to assemble progress reports.
5. Promote pollution prevention to their suppliers through various outreach, information, and assistance efforts, such as informational materials, specifications, conferences, and/or workshops.
6. Participate with the MDEQ in the establishment and operation of a stakeholder engagement mechanism.

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7. Seek mutually beneficial opportunities for student internship assignments as determined feasible by the Auto Companies and the MDEQ.

V. Project Report

The Michigan Auto Project will publish an annual report that includes a narrative of corporate and facility activities undertaken by the project and measurable results.

VI. Continuous Improvement

The Auto Companies and the MDEQ will monitor progress under this agreement and seek continuous improvements. The Auto Companies and the MDEQ will apply the knowledge gained from this program in future endeavors.

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